

Remarks

Claims 41-42 and 44-57 are pending in the application, with claims 41 and 57 being the independent claims. The foregoing amendment cancels claim 43 and amends claims 41, 46, and 57. Furthermore, the specification has been amended to address a minor informality. This amendment does not add new matter and is believed to be supported by the specification. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

Claims 41-57 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,416. Applicants have filed a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 41 and 46-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,879,816 to Bult *et al.* (hereafter "Bult").

The Office Action indicates that claims 42-45 and 57 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claim 41 to incorporate the features of claim 43 and therefore claim 41 should be allowable. Claims 42 and 44-56 either

directly or indirectly depend from claim 41 and therefore should be allowable for being dependent on an allowable base claim as well as for their own patentable features. Applicants have amended claim 57 to be in independent form and therefore claim 57 should now be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and that claims 41-42 and 44-57 be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jeffrey T. Helvey
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,757

Date: 8/9/06

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
547001v1